

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ARA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /080 W

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P R 101310Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4187

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SP

SUBJ: POLITICAL POT-POURRI

1. IN THE LAST DAY OR SO A SERIES OF POLITICALLY RELEVANT
EVENTS OCCURRED:

A. PRIME MINISTER ARIAS MET WITH THE ANEPA POLITICAL
ASSOCIATION, A GROUP FROM THE HEARTLAND OF THE OLD REGIME.
ARIAS REPORTEDLY TOLD ANEPA NEWSWEEK HAD MISQUOTED HIM IN ONE
RESPECT; HE HAD NOT SAID QTE POLITICAL PARTIES UNQTE BUT QTE
POLITICAL GROUPS UNQTE AND ASSURED THEM THE ASSOCIATIONS
PROVIDE A BASIS FOR THE POLITICAL FUTURE. THE WORD QTE PARTY UNQTE
BEING ANATHEMA TO CERTAIN RIGHT WING GROUPS, SOME HAVE ATTACHED
SIGNIFICANCE TO ARIAS' REMARKS, OTHERS, INCLUDING A COLUMNIST
IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S OWN NEWSPAPER, ARriba, HAVE SAID
QTE WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? UNQTE.

B. THE METRO STRIKE ENDED IN A FASHION WHICH WOULD SEEM TO
VINDICATE THE GOS'S APPROACH. THE WORKERS GOT A PROMISE OF NO
REPRISALS AND A SERIOUS ADDRESS TO THEIR GRIEVANCES, MOSTLY
MONETARY, BUT THE SUBWAY EMPLOYEES RETURNED WITHOUT A DEFINITE
SETTLEMENT AND AFTER THE GOS HAD DEMONSTRATED IT COULD RUN THE
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METRO WITHOUT THE WORKERS. AT THE SAME TIME, MINISTER OF INFORMATION

MARTIN GAMERO, OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO RENEWED CALLS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE BY THE COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS, SAID THE GOS WAS NOT DISPOSED TO TOLERATE POLITICAL STRIKES.

C. MINISTER OF EDUCATION ROBLES PIQUER SAID THE GOS WOULD WITHDRAW PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRECINCTS, AND HOPED A NEW CLIMATE WOULD RESULT WHICH WOULD PREVENT THE REPETITION OF ACTS OF VANDALISM THAT REQUIRE POLICE ACTION.

D. GENERAL SPINOLA MADE A QUITE PUBLIC REAPPEARENCE IN MADRID YESTERDAY, RETURNING FROM RIO AND BEING WHISKED OFF DIRECTLY FROM PLANESIDE IN A CAR WITH TWO SPANISH POLICE AGENTS.

E. THE CABINET, IN ADDITION TO A NUMBER OF MIDDLE LEVEL APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING THE KEY GOVERNORSHIP OF THE BARCELONA PROVINCE, DECREED MORE FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS FOR BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, ENDING THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO FOLLOW THE TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS UNIQUE TO SPAIN AND SOME OF LATIN AMERICA. THIS IS PORTRAYED AS A STEP TOWARD ACCOMODATING SPAIN TO EUROPEAN PRACTICES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID00159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0091
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760168/aaaacidz.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL POT-POURRI
TAGS: PFOR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006